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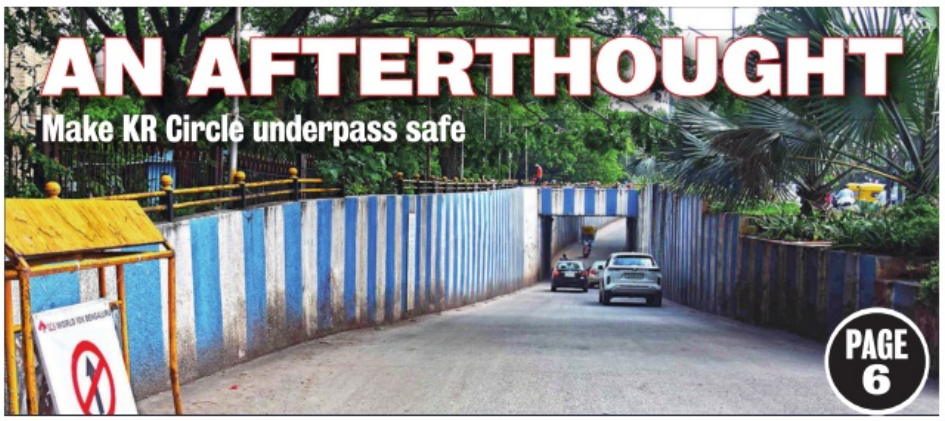
# Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 31 | Min 21 | Humidity 83% Isolated Thunderstorms Sensex 61,981 | Nifty 18,348 | Gold 60,145 | Silver 72,428 | Dollar 82.80 | Euro 89.36 | GBP 102.88




**Police stations across the city have a feeling that footpaths or roads and even underpasses are spaces to dump seized vehicles at. But citizens have this to say...**

# THE WORLD IS NOT YOUR PARKING LOT

## And that too when we are fined Rs 1,000 for wrongful parking!

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Close your eyes and picture this: You have a brand new footpath built under the Smart City project. A few months go by, and lo -- it has turned into a parking spot for the police to dump vehicles that nobody can use. Now open your eyes and look around you -- alas this is not some thought you had, it is the city's dowdy reality.

Milliers Road's smart city footpath was made just a year ago, but now one can spot several vehicles parked on it. And you cannot blame anyone in this case, because it is the police themselves who have parked it there. The High Grounds Police Station has parked vehicles they have seized and left them to rot on the footpath. Commuters have even spotted small plants growing on a car that was covered with mud.

Commuters question how come traffic police are fining the ordinary person Rs 1,000 for wrong parking while they themselves are taking up public spaces for wrong parking.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7 »

**"If the police commissioner asks the BBMP for space to keep the seized vehicles, the civic authorities will provide the space because it's absolutely wrong to take up public space** — MN Sreehari, traffic expert

# Much activity on hanging bridge

## Footpaths being built, road to be asphalted; motorists stress on quality of work

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Known as the most neglected bridge in the city, the cable bridge or the hanging bridge in KR Puram, has finally received attention. The bridge that was famous for broken concrete railings, peepal plants, and potholes will now have footpaths on both sides.

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has taken up construction of footpaths on both sides of the road on the bridge and it will asphalt the road at an estimated cost of Rs 11.39 crore.

"As of now, it is difficult to walk on the bridge. The footpaths, if ready, will be a great help for pedestrians," said Nagabhushan K, a resident of Pai Layout.

Motorists, especially two-wheeler riders, also urged the BBMP engineer to direct the contractor to complete the asphalting of the road as early as possible. They said the road, after milling, has become dangerous for riders. "Unwary two-wheeler riders are vulnerable to road accidents on the bridge if the asphalting of the road that was milled recently is not asphalted without any delay," said Bhaskar Raju, a two-wheeler rider.

Emphasising on the need to expedite

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7 »

## 3 THINGS TO DO

### 01 For the tots

Silk Route presents A Pair of Wings I Wish For, a children's play for 5-year-olds and above. The play is an adaptation of Trina Poulos' book Hope of Flowers by Vasanth Selvam. The play sheds light on counter culture which offers people the space to be different and themselves, unburdened by the convention of society. It reassures people that it's okay to deviate from the norm.
**Where: Jagriti Theatre**
**When: May 27, 28, 3,30 and 7.30 pm**
**Tickets: bookmyshow.com**

### 02 Of resilience and endurance

LetsAuthor in association with Atta Galatta bookstore invites you to a wonderful experience in an interactive session on the evening of 28th May'23, to the launch of their latest coveted title 'Winter Always Turns to Spring'. Presided upon by lead authors Kumar Mukul and V Padmaja, this launch will introduce all the bibliophiles to a book which narrates the vivid and exceptional story of triumph, loss and shared suffering of humanity during the trying times of Covid. **Where: Atta Galatta; When: May 28, 6 pm; Contact: 9674109806**

### 03 Live tunes

Get ready for a night of nostalgia as Hard Rock Cafe Bengaluru pays tribute to two of the most iconic boy bands of the 90s and early 2000s - Backstreet Boys and MLTR by the rockstars of the band Showcase. Hard Rock Cafe will come alive with the greatest hits of Backstreet Boys and MLTR, as Showcase takes the stage for a special evening dedicated to two of the most popular boybands. Don't miss your chance to relive and take a trip down memory lane and enjoy an unforgettable performance by Showcase.
**Where: Hard Rock Cafe; When: 27 May, 9 pm**

# Just can't breathe in!

## Bengaluru experienced surge in pollutants like carbon monoxide, sulphur dioxide, ozone, NO2, methane from 2018 to 2021 due to various activities

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Experts say if Bengaluru's air pollution goes unchecked, it will lead to health emergencies

Bengaluru from 2018 to 2021 experienced a surge in the level of pollutants such as NO2, carbon monoxide, ozone, sulphur dioxide, and methane, according to a recently published study.

The study titled 'Machine learning-based country-level annual air pollutants exploration using Sentinel-5P and Google Earth Engine', published in journal Nature, analysed three phases of covid-19 (pre, during, and post).

Results show a surge in air pollution due to various activities such as an increase in transportation, a surge in industrial power plants, a change in green space dynamics, and unplanned urbanisation.

As per the study, the average annual NO2 concentration in the city was 57 in 2018, 49 in 2019, 42 in 2020, and reached 62 in 2021. Similarly, the annual SO2 values recorded a surge as well.

The mean yearly SO2 was 27 in 2018, 11 in 2019, 14 in 2020, and 29 in 2021.

Bengaluru recorded an average annual ozone (O3) value of 83 in 2018, 79 in 2019, 64 in 2020, and 89 in 2021. Carbon monoxide levels also registered a surge from 52 in 2018 to 59 in 2021.

Covid-19 and related restrictions such as lockdown and restricted transportation led to low fuel use and less transportation and industrial activities. This influenced the level of air pollutants, indicating climate change is an outcome of anthropogenic activities

**The study indicates that climate change and anthropogenic activities are main influencing factor for air pollutants**

Conducted through a machine-learning based algorithm, using satellite data and Google Earth Engine, the study also highlights an increase in pollutants across all major cities in India between 2018 and 2021.

The study indicates that climate change and anthropogenic activities are the main influencing factor for air pollutants and further highlights that awareness and planning are much needed for protecting the environment and keeping the levels of pollutants under check.

Carried out by researchers Bijay Halder, Iman Ahmadianfar, Salim Heddam, Zainab Haider Mussa, and Leonardo Goliath, it also emphasises the need for proper planning, management, and development strategies to help protect the environment.

If not followed, climate change and air pollution will increase health emergencies, ecological destruction, and environmental degradation.

# 'Focus on children in state budget please!'

## Child rights activists want Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to allocate funds

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Child rights activists have appealed to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to give importance to child protection and welfare in the State Budget by allocating sufficient funds. They want the Chief Minister to hold consultations with all groups working for the welfare of children before presenting the State Budget.

Nagasimha G Rao, Director of Child Rights Trust, wrote a letter to the Chief Minister urging him to give importance for the welfare and protection of children in the state. "The condition of children welfare after Covid is alarming. The need of the hour is to take preventive measures for the protection of children," said Nagasimha G Rao in the letter to the Chief Minister.

He said that the Congress manifesto did not have any programmes for the welfare of children in the state. "I want the Chief Minister to take all measures for the welfare of children in the state even though the Congress manifesto did not include welfare programmes for children," he said.

He said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is known to be sympathetic to child rcauses. "I am sure that you, being the children-friendly Chief Minister, will make Karnataka children-friendly," he said in the letter.

Meanwhile, Anjali Ramanna, a member of the Child Welfare Committee said the state government has to take a lot of measures for the welfare of children. "The state government has not had a plan of action for children since 2011. The draft of Karnataka State Child Protection Policy is yet to be approved," said Anjali Ramanna.

Demanding the state government to take measures for the welfare of children, Vasudeva Sharma, Executive Director of Child Rights Trust, said that most of the political parties have neglected welfare programmes for children. "The Chief Minister should allocate funds for the protection of children in the state. The state government has to take measures to approve the draft of the Child Protection Policy," said Vasudeva Sharma.

> **"The condition of children welfare after Covid is alarming. The need of the hour is to take preventive measures**
> – Nagasimha G Rao, Director of Child Rights Trust

He said that consultations should be held with the organisations working for the welfare of children in the state before preparing the budget.

# DOG, GONE

## FIR against five employees of pet clinic for allegedly causing death of injured dog

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The Vidyaranyapura police have registered a first information report (FIR) against five people employed with Alai Pet Clinic for allegedly causing the death of an injured dog which was taken to the clinic.

The complaint by Dr Radhika T alleged that the staff delayed giving the injured dog to her when she wanted to take it to another veterinary clinic for treatment.

The police have registered a FIR against Sajeesh S, Skyla Pinto, and three veterinary practitioners under the Section 11 of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, and under the Section 420 of the Indian Penal Code 1860.

According to the FIR, a street dog named Sanghu was injured in a road accident at 1.50 pm on May 13. The dog was finally taken to Alai Pet Clinic at K Narayanapura Cross, Hennur.

Sajeesh S and Skyla Pinto are the trustees of the Alai Pet Clinic and they treated the injured dog for two days and the complainant paid Rs 3,138 for treatment. The complainant called Sajeesh to enquire about the health of the dog on May 15, the latter had advised the former to take the injured dog to another veterinary clinic. It is alleged that Alai Pet Clinic staff delayed handing the injured dog to the complainant without any reason. The injured dog was finally admitted to another veterinary clinic but the dog died on May 16.

Dr Radhika T told Bangalore Mirror that animals or humans all lives are equally important. "When we take an oath to do right by our patients, we must do it honestly till the end. Rescuing is not merely shifting an animal from the street to a treatment room. It's providing correct and timely care to the injured animal till the end and should be done by people qualified to do so," Dr Radhika said.

She said that picking critical and gruesome cases from the street, doing a few treatment procedures and posting on social media for funds is not called rescue. "When animals are picked from the street, we take away their freedom to choose. This prevents them from finding food and water on time and they have to exclusively depend on the rescuer for basic needs. If an NGO cannot provide timely treatment and supportive care they must not take in the animal. They do more harm than good," she said.

One of the accused, Sajeesh S said the veterinary doctor provided better treatment for the injured dog. "There was no delay in handing the injured dog to the complainant. Radhika was rude with our staff. I asked her to give the post-mortem report of the deceased dog but she did not oblige. The purpose of seeking the post-mortem report is to know whether there were any mistakes in treating the injured dog," said Sajeesh.

> **Radhika was rude to the staff. She did not even provide a post-mortem report** –Sajeesh, accused

Animal activists want authorities to take measures and act tough against those responsible for the death of Sanghu.

Deepthy MG, an advocate, said that it has become a hobby for people to start such NGO's in the name of animal welfare and they survive with donations through emotional blackmailing. "Public should use the government hospitals and demand the SPCA to open the hospitals and shelters," said Deepthy

Sujaya Jagadeesh, SPCA member, demanded the authorities must constitute a committee for monitoring the animal birth control (ABC) programme and animal shelters. "The problem with the people managing animal shelters is that they consider that animal shelters as their own and feel that they are not answerable to anyone," said Sujaya.

# Assaulted for wrong entry

## Man claims he was punched, harassed by stranger for riding on right side

A man took to Twitter and claimed that he was hit in the head by a person because he entered his residential society from the wrong side.

"This traumatic incident occurred on the night of 16th May. It was around 9:00 pm. My sister and I were returning home on our two-wheeler. We entered from the right side because the road on the left was broken and there was a chance of skidding. Also, there was no traffic on the right side. An unknown man stopped us and started yelling at us," said Sanchit Kumar.

He added that later the man, forced them to go back and enter again from the left side. Sanchit and his sister requested him to talk politely but he continued harassing them publicly.

"Since he was continuously misbehaving, I decided not to argue with him and asked my sister to get down and started taking U-turn. The moment I started taking the U turn, this guy grabbed the handle of my Scooty and pushed it aggressively. I fell and the Scooty toppled. He then just started punching me on my face, forehead and eyes non-stop. No one came to stop him including the society guards. Blood was gushing from my head and nose," added Sanchit.

Later, when the accused realised that Sanchit was bleeding heavily, he got an ice pack for him and Sanchit was taken to Manipal Hospital, Sarjapur, where he was diagnosed with a deep rupture above his eyebrows and recommended surgery.

A case has been filed in the Bellandur police station.

—BMB


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# Cars have the high ground

## High Grounds Junction gets new 'compass' makeover to tackle traffic congestion

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The Dharmaprakash Devarao Shivaram Ubhayakar Circle, popularly known as the High Grounds Junction or High Point Junction, is undergoing a remarkable transformation with the implementation of a new compass design. The notable addition of the compass design aims to alleviate traffic congestion and improve the overall flow of vehicles at this strategic location.

The bustling intersection has long been a crucial transit point for commuters to and from the airport. With high movement of vehicles due to people going to Palace Road, ITC Windsor Manor, or Vasanthnagar, there used to be congestion at the junction. For over a decade now, it had two traffic islands - a big one right in the middle and a smaller one to segregate traffic turning right towards Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium.

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Traffic Engineering Cell (TEC) team has initiated the removal of the traffic islands and has designed a compass with the directions of north, east, west, and south. The work is in progress at a fast pace. The vehicles will now be able to ply over the compass with a wider space to commute.

> **We have stated that the earlier traffic island, which was segregating right-turning traffic, must be restored in a smaller size**
>
> – Rajkumar Dugar, C4C

In 2019, the organisation Citizens for Citizens (C4C) conducted a comprehensive study of the traffic flow and recorded a drone video, confirming the detrimental impact of the traffic islands on smooth traffic movement. The video revealed that the congestion caused by vehicles waiting at red lights disrupted both the straight-moving traffic and the 'free-left' turning traffic. Finally, in the latter half of March 2023, the BBMP TEC removed both islands.

Rajkumar Dugar from C4C said, "After a four-year-long wait, we now see the changes being made. We are very thankful to the BBMP TEC team and High Grounds BTP team for considering our suggestions. We have stated that the earlier traffic island, which was segregating right-turning traffic, must be restored in a smaller size, and it should have the Traffic Police Kiosk. Also, the lighting of the junction was very poor and needed to be enhanced."

BBMP Executive Engineer, TEC, Jayasimha, said, "As it is one of the highest spots in Bengaluru, we have come up with a compass design to be implemented. The new design will ease congestion in a big way. The kiosk will be placed in an appropriate place that does not hinder the traffic. There will be a free left and free right after the design is completed. For people commuting to Palace Road, we will be making some changes that will help further."

The BBMP Traffic Engineering Cell (TEC) team has initiated the removal of the traffic islands and has designed a compass; vehicles will now be able to ply over the compass with a wider space to commute

### Behind the name: High Grounds has a history

On June 10, 2007 the junction was named Dharmaprakash Devarao Shivaram Ubhayakar Circle. Unfortunately, not many are aware of this name, even though a large BBMP Board was unveiled on that day by then Chief Secretary Shri Prahalad Mahishi and Former Chief Justice Shri Venkatachalaiah. This was done in honour of Devarao Shivaram Ubhayakar, who was given the title 'Dharmaprakash' by the Mysuru Maharajas in recognition of his several social, religious, and philanthropic activities. The Ubhayakars have been residents of Palace Road, about 200m from this junction. At 940 m above MSL, this junction is one of the highest spots in Bengaluru, earning itself the name High Grounds.

# Kasturi Nagar shy of BBMP's radar

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The residents of Kasturi Nagar are grappling with a myriad of civic issues, including incomplete stormwater drain (SWD) construction and delays in the suburban railway project. The residents allege that these problems have been exacerbated by the piling up of garbage and highlight the negligence of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

According to the residents, the construction work for a section of the Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project (BSRP), stretching over 149,348 kilometres, began approximately three to four months ago along Kasturi Nagar's First Main Road. Simultaneously, a SWD construction project was initiated along the railway line, resulting in the felling of numerous trees. Now both have been left in an incomplete state, leaving behind a trail of construction debris and turning 1st main road into an unsightly garbage dump.

A resident said, "The overflowing garbage is contaminating the road. There is also irregular waste collection by the BBMP. The accumulation of waste has attracted stray animals, posing a significant hazard to commuters and residents."

Pashupati Davella, a resident of Kasturi Nagar, added, "The negligence of the BBMP towards our neighbourhood is disheartening. Waste collection is highly irregular in the area. The incomplete construction of the suburban railway and stormwater drain has caused chaos along the 1st main road. The drain work commenced without proper planning and was abruptly halted. The authorities have provided no justification thus far. With the monsoon season approaching, the potential consequences of garbage mixing with rainwater, combined with the unfinished drain pose a grave threat to residents. Despite raising the issue on Twitter and tagging relevant officials, I have received no help."

V Muthanna, a member of the Bengaluru NavaNirmana Party (BNP), criticised the BBMP for its inefficient expenditure of funds and subpar work. "Corruption, administrative lethargy, and negligence towards civic issues are prevalent within the BBMP.

Drain construction and solid waste management receive substantial funding, yet Kasturi Nagar is a testament to the BBMP's poor work ethics, planning, and financial management. Moreover, they disregard the concerns raised by citizens," he stated.

Heaps of garbage can be seen accumulating in the area; there are several other civic issues, including an incomplete stormwater drain

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### This is banned

**KEB Layout**

All the KEB Layout (Sanjay Nagar) electric poles have these flexes, despite it being illegal.

### Unhygienic conditions

**Jayanagar**

The Jayanagar 9th block bus stand has become a dumpyard for garbage. Commuters have to suffer due to stench and mosquito bites.

### Drain pain

**Telecom Layout**

BBMP has done a poor job of patching up drains at Telecom Layout, Subramayapura.

# Interstate bike thieves caught

A gang that was stealing bikes in Bengaluru (Karnataka) and Tamil Nadu has been caught by the police. The Bommanahalli police station has seized 72 bikes worth more than Rs 1.20 crore, along with the seven accused who were stealing these bikes.

After stealing the bikes, the accused used to sell them to customers in Tamil Nadu at a low price. Stolen bikes worth Rs 2 lakh were being sold for only Rs 25,000.

Speaking about this, South East Division DCP CK Baba said, "We have arrested the notorious interstate bike thieves. We seized bikes worth

**Cops seized 72 bikes worth more than Rs 1.20 crore, arrested seven accused**

Rs 1 crore 20 lakhs. The bikes were stolen in different stations of the South-Eastern Division. They used to target high-end bikes. First, we arrested one person and interrogated him. The main accused was working as a mechanic in a garage."

The accused were coming to the city by bus. The DCP added that the accused have been caught for the first time.

**Bike stunt lands teen in trouble**

Bengaluru Traffic Police on Tuesday arrested a teenage boy for performing wheelies on the road. A video of the boy doing bike stunts on Banashankari 6th level road was captured by commuters and uploaded on social media. The video was shared on the Twitter handle 'I Change Hemmigepura' and the traffic police was tagged to take action against those who were doing bike stunts.

Following this, Talaghattapura traffic police arrested the boy and confiscated the bike. —BMB

# Businesses note new frenzy

## RBI announcement leads to increase in trading of Rs 2,000 notes

A man exchanging Rs 2,000 notes; traders say they are getting Rs 2,000 notes even for items worth Rs 100

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
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Hoteliers say that they are finding it difficult to provide change to customers, as most of them are turning in Rs 2,000 notes. Bruhat Bengaluru Hotels Association President PC Rao said, "Earlier, we used to see many customers using only UPI or cards, but the trend has reversed."

Krishna Raju, the owner of Hotel Nisarga, said, "We are seeing customers who are paying Rs 2,000 notes to buy a cup of tea. We are worried about how to dispose of the currency, as no vendor is ready to accept them from us." Food-delivery firm Zomato said on its Twitter account on Monday that 72 per cent of the 'cash on delivery' orders were paid in Rs 2,000 notes since Friday. Raju, who works as a cashier in a bar, said that they would hardly see Rs 2,000 notes earlier, but now most people are giving them these notes. "If we refuse to accept, saying that we don't have change, then there will be fights," he added.

City traders said that they are getting Rs 2,000 notes even when people are buying items for Rs 100-200. They say the latter want to get rid of the notes after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in a surprise move on Friday, announced the withdrawal of the note from circulation. A trader from Chickpet said that people want to get rid of the notes instantly, even though the central bank has given them time till September 30 to either deposit such notes in accounts or exchange them at banks.

Unlike the November 2016 shock of demonetisation, when old Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 notes were invalidated overnight, the Rs 2,000 currency notes will continue to be a legal tender.

Recently, the State Bank of India said that Rs 2,000 notes can be exchanged by the public up to a limit of Rs 20,000 at a time without obtaining any requisition slip.

Some people are opting to invest in jewellery. "My daughter received close to Rs 6,000 in Rs 2,000 denomination notes when she was born in 2014. We were storing the money in her piggy bank. Following the RBI's announcement, we broke her piggy bank and counted the notes. We have decided to invest in jewellery. It will be an investment for the future as well as a prudent decision at this time," said R Lakshmi, a homemaker.

Petrol pump dealers said that cash sales before the surprise announcement on Friday were only 10 per cent. "The majority of customers are trying to use Rs 2,000 notes even for small purchases. Petrol pumps are extremely short of change across the country," stated All India Petroleum Dealers Association President Ajay Bansal. The association also mentioned that petrol pump dealers have been requesting customers to use cards or digital payment. "Before this, we used to receive only 10 per cent of our cash sales in Rs 2,000 notes. Now, almost 90 per cent of cash received at our outlets is in the form of Rs 2,000 notes, and we have to deposit the same in banks daily," a statement noted.

> **We are seeing customers who are paying Rs 2,000 notes to buy a cup of tea. We are worried**
> – Krishna Raju, owner of Hotel Nisarga

Meanwhile, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das explained that Rs 2,000 rupee notes were introduced primarily to replenish the currency that was withdrawn following the 2016 demonetisation. Banks have been advised to make necessary arrangements for the exchange process.

# Stolen money returned

Money looted from the donation box by old trust members from St Mary Chapel Charitable Trust in Jeevan Bhima Nagar was recovered and returned on Monday. An amount of Rs 1,72,000 and 20g of gold was returned to Reverend Father Chinappa. The five accused - Dominic, Solomon Sabu, Josh, Viji, and Prabhu - were released after a warning.

John Paul, a committee member, claimed that the entire amount was not returned and speculated that they might have stolen around Rs 4,00,000. The theft occurred nine-10 days ago during the vote counting process of elections when police were occupied with other work.

"We filed a complaint at the police station. The cops checked the CCTV footage in the area. However, the old trust members confessed to the theft. The cops then insisted that the matter be resolved among the members of the church," he said.

Father Chinappa also instructed the committee members to reinstall the drum box and the key to Mother Mary's idol, which contains 80g of jewels.

Ashwini from the NGO 'Rise UP for Rights' assisted the committee members in filing the police complaint. She said, "The members were made to wait at the police station from morning to evening. This is usually the case in Jeevan Bhima Nagar police station. The accused had been stealing money for eight or nine years. However, the people of the church remained silent as potential donors would think twice before donating. Thanks to John Paul's persistence, the theft was exposed." —Abhijeet Kabad

# Vile posts are on radar

In his maiden meeting with top police officials after the Congress government came to power, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday warned that concerned officials will be held responsible if law and order situation in the state deteriorates, and asked them to act against those disturbing harmony through social media posts.

He also instructed them to give priority to solving traffic problems in Bengaluru and controlling cyber crimes.

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar who was also present at the meeting, pointing to a few incidents under the previous BJP regime, said, the new government will not allow "saffronisation" of the police department.

"People have elected a new government with the expectation of change. Officials should work to respond to their problems," Siddaramaiah said.

He also directed officials to take strict legal action against those disturbing harmony in the society through inflammatory posts on social media.

The CM will hold a separate meeting to discuss the issue of traffic congestion in Bengaluru.

Drug addiction should be prevented, Siddaramaiah said, as he asked "Hoysala" patrol teams to always be vigilant to check crimes.

Directing senior officers to visit and inspect police stations, he said the public who come to the police station with problems, should be treated courteously, without looking at them like criminals.

Siddaramaiah also told police officials that they should take merciless action to control illegal activities within the police station limits. PTI

# BBMP to fend off free flow of water

## Work on 'short-term' measures to fix KR Circle underpass in progress

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The KR Circle underpass where a 23-year-old lost her life will finally get a makeover as the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has decided to install CCTVs, construct ramps, and install a new set of drainages.

According to the report submitted by the civic agency, BBMP plans to construct new drainage systems at the entry and exit ramps of the underpass. These drainage systems will be connected to the rajakaluve and will prevent the flow of excess water from the road surface from entering the underpass.

The report mentions a need for a hump at the entry and exit so that the hump blocks the free flow of water from the road surface entering the underpass. It is also recommended to install CCTVs at the underpass, as well as a vertical clearance gauge beam and a boom barrier. These short-term measures will be fixed within the next 15 days.

BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath on Tuesday said that blocking the underpass permanently was not a solution. "Instead of closing the underpasses permanently, the BBMP will look at closing them during rain. Even in KR Circle, the underpass can be opened during fair weather after corrective steps have been taken," he said.

> **"Instead of closing the underpasses permanently, the BBMP will look at closing them during rain. Even in KR Circle, the underpass can be opened during fair weather after correct steps** –Tushar Giri Nath, BBMP

KAUSHIK JN

**BBMP plans to construct new drainage systems at the entry and exit ramps of KR Circle underpass**

Furthermore, the report stated that the underpass at KR Circle was at a lower altitude and was prone to flooding as gushing water from all directions could enter the underpass. This underpass was one of the 'magic box' underpasses constructed using precast technology in 2011.

"The underpass is in a U-shape and has a drainage system to allow for the free flow of excess water. The drainage is 0.6 metres wide and 0.6 metres deep," the report highlighted.

The drainage system has a capacity to drain out 12.5 lakh litres of water in an hour. However, on Sunday, 24.7 mm of rainfall was recorded in one hour. This caused the water to accumulate due to blockage of drainage by leaves at the gratings, it explained.

Meanwhile, Rajkumar Dugar (Founder and Convenor, Citizens for Citizens (C4C)) said, "Another disaster waiting to happen in the narrow and turning underpass near Le Meridien. This often gets flooded, even with normal rain. Please take corrective action before the real monsoon starts. I would suggest that the entire underpass be covered, add suitable drains across both entry and exit, fix an automatic motor to drain out water when it reaches a certain level, and ensure a suitable rainwater harvesting pit at the lowest point in the underpass."

Reacting to this, Nath said, "The underpass at Le Meridian is also a trouble spot. The BBMP spent Rs 5 lakh last time to create injection wells. This was working well for some time, but now automation is required. The BBMP needs to cover the underpass near Le Meridien."

### 35 underpasses

With the KR Circle incident, the focus has now shifted to all the underpasses that are prone to flooding. The report says that there are 35 underpasses in the city. They are located at Mekhri Circle, Cauvery junction, Vivekananda College, Cunningham Road- Sankey Road junction, Maharani College junction, KR Circle, Rajajinagar entrance, Malleswaram, Dr Modi Hospital Road junction on west of Chord Road, Prasanna Theatre junction, Tagore Circle, Madiwala junction, Kadirenahalli, Puttenahalli, Marathahalli, Ramamurthy Nagar, Horamavu, Sanjay Nagar- ORR, BEL junction-ORR, Chandra Layout junction, Dairy Circle, Jayadeva Hospital, Hennur Cross, Kadubeesanahalli, Kundalahalli, Suranjan Das Road and Old Airport Road, CNR Rao Circle (in front of IISc), Nammoora Thindi Nagarbhavi, Nagarbhavi Circle, Bellahalli junction-Thanisandra Main Road, Laggere, Kempegowda Arch (Laggere), Anandnagar (Hebbal), Y Junction near Global Mall.

### 18 railway under bridges

Apart from this, the city has 18 railway underbridges located at Kino Theatre, Old NH-7 Yelahanka, Shivarama Karanth Layout, Nayandanahalli (ORR), Okalipuram, Doddanekundi, Goripalya, Shankarnag gate (Mathikere), Horamavu (KR Puram), Sivananda Circle, Srirampura, Kodigehalli, Jakkur, Kadugodi, Hoodi, Binnymill (in front of ETI apartments), Benniganahalli, and Nayandahalli railway station.

# '52 died in K'taka during rains'

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday said 52 deaths have been reported so far due to pre-monsoon rains in the state, along with damages to properties, and directed officials concerned to provide immediate relief.

He said authorities have been warned of strict action in case of dereliction of duty.

The CM today chaired a meeting with Deputy Commissioners (DCs) of all districts and CEOs of Zilla Panchayats, over video conferencing, to discuss disaster management.

"Pre-monsoon showers have started in several parts, pre-monsoons are from April to June. This time pre-monsoon showers have been 10 per cent above normal. In this about 52 people have lost their lives so far, 331 livestock loss has been reported, crop loss has been reported in 20,000 hectare, and 814 houses have been damaged," Siddaramaiah told reporters after the meeting.

Immediate relief has to be provided for all these, he said. He added, "Already Rs 5 lakh has been provided to the family of 52 dead -- who have died due to tree fall, those died due to thunder strike or washed away by rain water.

"Also, it has been decided to provide relief to livestock loss, and to assess the damages caused to houses and provide immediate relief," he explained.

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, ministers and senior government officials were present at the meeting.

Noting that there was lot of expectations from the people after the new government coming to power, the CM said the dispensation has to live up to their expectations and officials should also become active. "So strict instructions have been given to DCs of districts, CEOs of Zilla Panchayats," he said. Averring that monsoon will start from June and according to the Met Department it will start from June 9, Siddaramaiah said pre-monsoon sowing has been done in more than 2 lakh hectares so far. The CM also instructed the officials to ensure that there was no shortage of seeds, fertilisers and pesticides. **PTI**

# Safe June: Control rooms to aid in heavy rains

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Owing to the rain-related disasters striking throughout the city, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) will be setting up temporary monsoon control rooms across the city. These control rooms will assist people during heavy rains.

In the recent past, Bengaluru has been witnessing several rain-related accidents, and to minimise the impact and ensure timely help, Palike is planning on setting up temporary monsoon control rooms in the city. Palike will be setting up 63 temporary monsoon control rooms on the sub-divisional level. The control rooms are expected to be operational by June 1.

Palike has floated a tender for the setup of temporary monsoon control rooms, and each control room is expected to cost around Rs 1.25 lakh.

A senior BBMP official told Bangalore Mirror that the control rooms are operating on a zonal level throughout the year.

"During monsoon season, we establish control rooms on the sub-divisional level. In cases of emergencies arising out of heavy rainfall, the control room will address the issue," he said.

**Control rooms will deal with emergencies due to heavy rainfall**

Each control room will be fully equipped to deal with all emergencies and will be managed by an Assistant Executive Engineer.

He added, "It will be a five-crew team. The control rooms will be equipped with tree-cutting equipment in case of fallen trees, 10 HP water pumps in case of inundation, earthmovers, and the crew will be equipped with gumboots and jackets to provide emergency help.

Additionally, the AEE will coordinate health, fire, police, and other emergency departments in cases of need.

"The control room will have the contact numbers of the India Meteorological Department (IMD). We will also receive weather forecasts and be able to warn the team members," he informed.

Another senior BBMP official said that the crew will assist in cases where trees fall down, water enters homes, or roads are flooded, etc. "We have already identified the flooding and problem areas. In case of heavy rains, the team will reach the area and resolve the issue," he added.

# Toxicity of city's lakes

## Number of water bodies with extremely unsatisfactory water quality index triples over 5 years in B'luru; 43 lakes/tanks now in E category

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Bengaluru's water bodies are steadily deteriorating, and the latest water quality analysis report by Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) corroborates the view unequivocally.

According to water quality analysis of lakes and tanks of Bengaluru's urban and rural districts under Monitoring of India's National Aquatic Resource System (MINARS) program, the number of water bodies with extremely unsatisfactory water quality index (Class E) is going up every year and has tripled over the last five years. While the state pollution watchdog recorded 16 lakes and tanks with category E water quality in April 2019, as many as 43 such waterbodies have been documented in April 2023.

In April 2020, there were 28 water bodies with severely deteriorated water quality, 30 in April 2021, and 33 in April 2022: registering a year-on-year surge in the number as well.

As per the Central Pollution Control Board's (CPCB) standards, water from these lakes and tanks cannot be used for drinking even after treatment, outdoor bathing, and propagation of wildlife and fisheries. They can only be used for controlled waste disposal, industrial cooling, and irrigation.

MONDAY'S SHOCKER: Walkers at Chelkere Lake in Kalyan Nagar in south Bengaluru spotted nearly 20 dead fish floating on the surface of the water body on Monday. This is the fifth fish kill incident this year reported from city lakes

### Do we need this sort of rejuvenation?

City-based lake activists question the rejuvenation process and maintenance contracts managed by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), Bengaluru's lakes' custodian. Experts say while BBMP is rejuvenating city lakes spending crores of money and creating diversion channels to ensure that the lake water quality improves, the KSPCB's report shows these efforts have only been futile. There is no point in diverting resources towards a process that is not yielding results.

Maintenance of the lakes post rejuvenation has a bigger role in improving the water quality.

"While rejuvenation is a one-time affair, maintenance is a continuous effort. While the documents that the civic body gets signed by contractors to maintain the lakes have an exhaustive list of activities to be taken care of to maintain the water bodies.

However, it is mostly the aesthetic aspects that are being taken care of and no attention is being paid to the lake ecosystem and water quality," said Raghavendra B Pachhapur, a city-based lake activist.

> **"While KSPCB is not discharging its duty in true spirit, BBMP is also not bothered about water pollution** – Environmentalist

The role of state pollution control board in reducing and eventually eliminating pollution is being put under the scanner as well. According to V Ramprasad, co-founder of Friends of Lakes, KSPCB is guilty of dereliction of duty.

As per CPCB, one of the mandates of the water quality monitoring process is to assess the quality of water and to take steps for prevention, control, and abatement of water pollution in such areas. The agency responsible to do is the state pollution control board.

### Agencies not working

"KSPCB has only been monitoring the pollution level in the water bodies and has taken no action to bring down this pollution level. While KSPCB has all the rules and acts at its disposal, the board has rarely exercised these powers in case of pollution in Bengaluru's lakes. Identification of polluted areas is not even half the job done. It should be extended to abatement to the least," said Ramprasad.

| Month -Year | Number of monitoring stations | Number of lake water samples under class E |
|---|---|---|
| Apr-19 | 106 | 16 |
| Apr-20 | 106 | 28 |
| Apr-21 | 106 | 30 |
| Apr-22 | 106 | 33 |
| Apr-23 | 123 | 43 |

Lack of coordination between government agencies and lack of data availability in the public domain are some other reasons that lake activists cite for degrading water quality of city lakes.

"While KSPCB is not discharging its duty in true spirit, BBMP is also not bothered about water pollution. KSPCB has a mandate under MINARS and the board is interested in only populating its files for audit checks. To add to that, BBMP is rarely coordinating with KSPCB to take stock of the water quality. None of the agencies are interested in bringing down the pollution level. KSPCB should at least make their detailed water quality analysis data public, so Bengalureans can save their city," said a city-based environmentalist.

# Find other space to park seized vehicles

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Both Law and Order and Traffic Police have parked hundreds of vehicles that are part of ongoing cases. They occupy precious normal road space, parking space and also footpath space. These vehicles have been parked there for years now and some have mould growing on them. The irony of the situation is that the traffic police penalise residents for footpath parking but when it comes to them, the vehicles are parked every day for years on public roads," said a commuter.

Another city activist added that it's the same situation near an underpass near Malleswaram Circle, where vehicles are parking in a line at the underpass making it difficult for pedestrians and vehicles to move.

"Almost 90 percent of the police stations in the city don't have parking space, so they are supposed to send these vehicles to a big area that has been allotted to them in South Bengaluru, but they don't want to make that effort. The police parking vehicles at an underpass is quite unacceptable because it slows down the entire traffic flow in the area. There was also an order by the DGP last year which stated that these vehicles should be moved, but as of now nothing has happened," he said.

When BM contacted Malleswaram Traffic Police, they informed us that they don't have parking space so they have to park the seized vehicles at the underpass.

"All the vehicles that are seized are parked in the underpass because there is no place for parking near the police station. But as of now, there is no obstruction for the vehicles and pedestrians. And even if there is obstruction, we don't have an option or the space. We are planning to release these vehicles to make space," he said.

MN Sreehari, a traffic expert, called the situation bizarre. "It is the police themselves who are creating hindrance to traffic movement. The stations that don't have space, should approach the police commissioner and ask for a space or for the vehicles to be sent to a different station. If the police commissioner asks the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) for space to keep the seized vehicles, the civic authorities will provide the space because it's absolutely wrong to take up public space."

# 'Check curb stones, speed up asphalting'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the on-going developmental works on the bridge, Balaji Raghotham, a social activist, said that curb stones have been placed on the surface of the road and it would not be sustainable for a long time. "Most of the curb stones kept on the surface of the road along the footpaths have fallen. There is no line and length. At some places the workers did not dig one inch of the road to keep the curb stones," said Raghotham.

Demanding that BBMP ensures quality of work, Gajendra Kumar, a two-wheeler rider, said the bridge is known for heavy traffic. "This is a very important bridge in the city. Many buses and heavy vehicles from neighbouring states use this bridge to enter the city. It has to be in good condition," he said.

Meanwhile the contractor said that asphalting the surface of the road would support and strengthen the curb stones along the footpaths. "The footpaths are being developed on both sides of the road on the bridge. We began asphalting the surface of the road but stopped due to rain. We are expecting to complete the work in 10 days," said the contractor, adding that the road beginning from the entrance of the bridge (towards KR Puram) and up to Vengaiah Lake would be asphalted. When informed about the complaints of sub-standard work, BBMP Chief Engineer BS Prahlad said that he would look into the matter. "I will direct my subordinates to check the quality of the work," he said.

# 25 from Karnataka clear UPSC exams

## KSRTC driver's son from small town in Dharwad bags 589th rank

A bus driver's son is among 25 young men and women from Karnataka who have cleared the UPSC exams.

Siddalingappa K Poojar, son of a bus driver attached to the state-owned transport company, has attained 589th rank in the Civil Services Examination, 2022.

Hailing from Annigeri town near Dharwad, Siddalingappa came from a poor background and wrote exams in Kannada medium. His mother Shantavva stated that she did not know anything about her son taking up UPSC exams.

"I don't know what he has learned either. I am proud that he has come up in life and brought pride to Dharwad district," she said.

"We never imagined that he would grow so well. We have not helped him and we were not there for him. In spite of it, he made an achievement. He had arranged all the finances. I work at a farm and his father works as a driver," she explained.

Siddalingappa has completed BE (Electronics) and is working at a private company in Bengaluru.

He was married last year and is settled in Bengaluru.

Yalagooresha Arjuna Nayaka from Vijayapura has secured 809th rank. He is the resident of Tanda near Sarura in Muddebihal taluk. His late father worked as an LIC agent and mother is a housewife. He has two brothers, three sisters. **– IANS**

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**I,** Yogeshwara V Bhat S/O Vinayak Vishwanatha Bhat, R/o 897 Sri Brindavan 1st Floor, 5th Cross, 16th Main, BTM Layout 2nd Stage Bangalore South Bangalore, Karnataka- 560076, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Yogeshwara Vinayak Bhat.

**I,** Mysore Jeevan Kumar S/o Sh. Mysore Venkateswara Rao R/o 845, 10th main, 7th cross BTM II, Bengaluru-560078. I have changed my minor son's name from Mysore Aditya Krishna Tulasi Prakash to Mysore Aditya and he shall hereafter be Known As Mysore Aditya for all future purposes.

**I** Dakshina Murthy Sudharshan S/O, Dakshina Murthy R/o Flat Number 312 A Block Prime City Apartment Doddathoguru Near Icon School Electronic City Phase 1 Bengaluru 560100 have changed my name to Sudarshan Dakshina Murthy

**I,** Joana Samuel W/o Akram Khan R/o #46/2 , Ground Floor, 7th A Cross, Kanakanagar,RT Nagar Post, Bangalore-560032 have changed my name as Sarina Ali Khan.

**I,** Kishore Sampath Rajee Kishore W/o Kishore Sampath R/o A 201, Purva Belmont Apartment, Kanakapura Road, Jaraganahalli, JP Nagar, 6th phase, Bangalore South, JP Nagar, Bangalore 560078 have changed my name to Rajee Kishore for all purposes

**I,** Raksha Ganesan W/o Vhishal Swamy R/o 405,D Block, Srinidhi The Central Park,Lbs Nagar,B'luru-560017 Have Changed My Name To Raksha Ganesh Affidavit Dt.23/05/2023 Notary Ganesh Gowda M.V, Bengaluru

**I,** Shaista Parveen have changed my name to Shalini and the religion to Hindu vide Affidavit both dated 21/02/2008 before the notary public Bangalore.

**I** Anilkumar Y R/a #325 ,2nd Cross 2nd Block,Dollars Colony RMV Extn, Sanjay Nagar, B'lore-560094, have changed my name to Raj Kumar Naidu Y vide affidavit dt 23.05.2023 bef-ore notary B.M.Chandrashekar

**I** Rithvik Sunil Dixit S/o, Suneel Shripad Dixit, R/o H no 228/A, Township, Dandel, Haliyal Taluk, Uttarkannada Karnataka. 581325 have changed my name to Rithvik Suneel Dixit for all purposes.

**I,** Tiya Rose Sajan D/o Dr Sajan Mathew R/o #81 , Hbr Telecom Layout, Hbr 5th Block, Kalyan Nagar Post, Bengaluru-560043 have changed my name to Tiya Rose Pulikunnel for all purposes.

**I,** Poonam Ramlakhan Pandey R/o 1303, Block B-6, L & T south city, Arekere, Mico layout, Bengaluru 560076 have changed my name to Poonam Pandey affidavit Dt.23/05/2023 notary Ganesh Gowda M.V, B'luru

**I,** Abel Thileeban.E, F/O Obeth Manu Christopher.A, changed my son's name to Obeh Manu.A vide affidavit dt. 19 May 23 sworn before notary G Dakshini, Bangalore

**I** Syed Ismail Ahmed A S/o Syed Amanulla R/o St Thomas town , Bangalore have changed my name from Syed Ismail Ahmed to Syed Ismail Ahmed A for all purposes

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**HEALTH TIP:** Tuna is almost entirely protein, essential for building lean muscle mass and providing the body with energy

Cheese is rich in B vitamins which are needed for energy production and protecting heart, brain and nerve health

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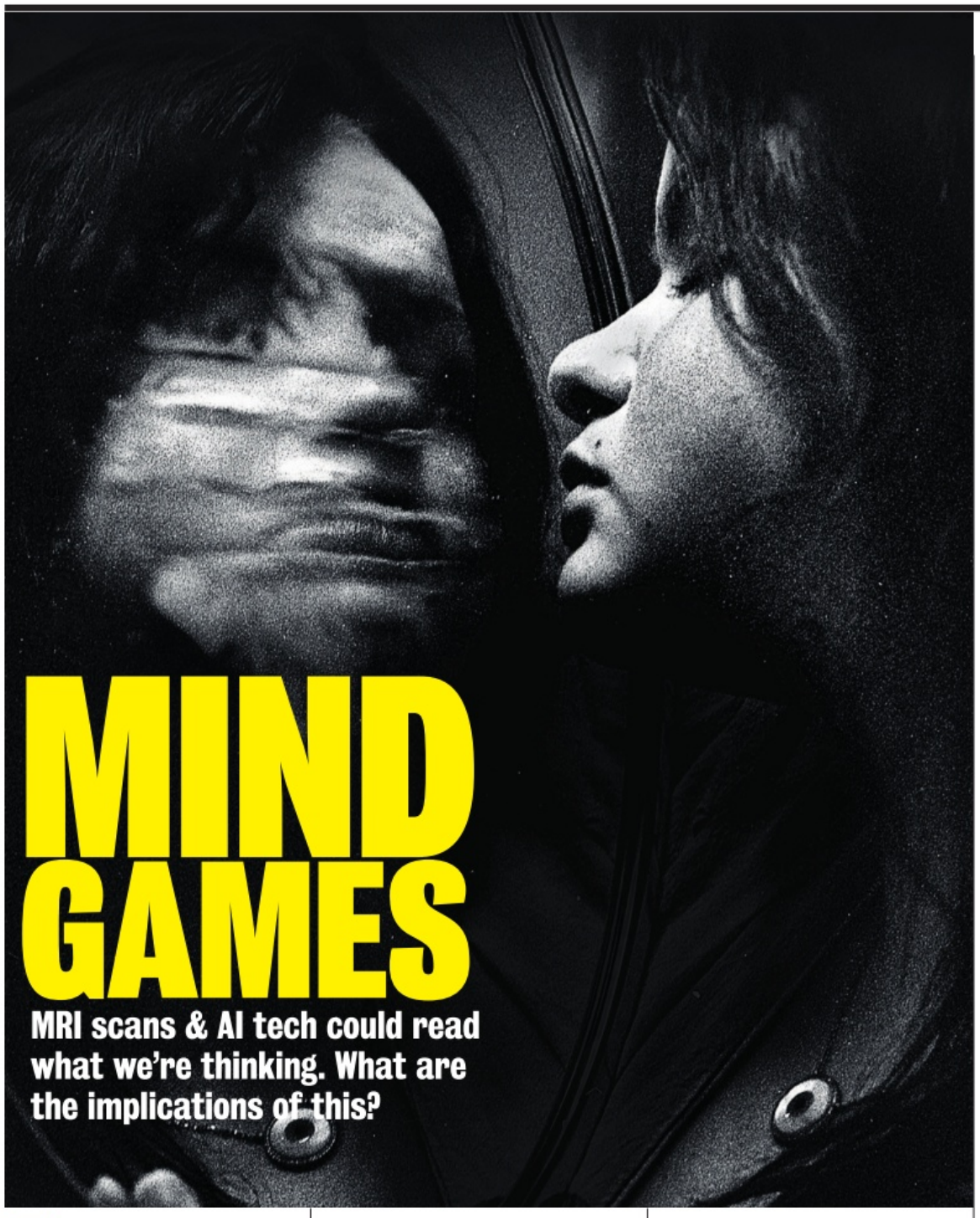

# MIND GAMES

## MRI scans & AI tech could read what we're thinking. What are the implications of this?

For the first time, researchers have managed to use GPT1, precursor to the AI chatbot ChatGPT, to translate MRI imagery into text in an effort to understand what someone is thinking.

This recent breakthrough allowed researchers at the University of Texas at Austin to "read" someone's thoughts as a continuous flow of text, based on what they were listening to, imagining or watching.

It raises significant concerns for privacy, freedom of thought, and even the freedom to dream without interference. Our laws are not equipped to deal with the widespread commercial use of mind-reading technology – freedom of speech law does not extend to the protection of our thoughts.

Participants in the Texas study were asked to listen to audiobooks for 16 hours while inside an MRI scanner. At the same time, a computer "learnt" how to associate their brain activity from the MRI with what they were listening to. Once trained, the decoder could generate text from someone's thoughts while they listened to a new story, or imagined a story of their own.

According to the researchers, the process was labour intensive and the computer only managed to get the gist of what someone was thinking. However, the findings still represent a significant breakthrough in the field of brain-machine interfaces that, up to now, have relied on invasive medical implants. Previous non-invasive devices could only decipher a handful of words or images.

**Here's an example of what one of the subjects was listening to (from an audiobook):**
I got up from the air mattress and pressed my face against the glass of the bedroom window, expecting to see eyes staring back at me but instead finding only darkness.

And here's what the computer "read" from the subject's brain activity:

I just continued to walk up to the window and open the glass I stood on my toes and peered out I didn't see anything and looked up again I saw nothing.

The study participants had to cooperate to both train and apply the decoder, so that the privacy of their thoughts was maintained. However, the researchers warn that "future developments might enable decoders to bypass these requirements". In other words, mind-reading technology could one day be applied to people against their will.

Future research may also speed up the training and decoding process. While it took 16 hours to train the machine to read what someone was thinking in the current version, this will significantly decrease in future updates. And as we have seen with other AI applications, the decoder is also likely to get more accurate over time.

There's another reason this represents a step-change. Researchers have been working for decades on brain-machine interfaces in a race to create mind-reading technologies that can perceive someone's thoughts and turn them into text or images. But typically, this research has focused on medical implants, with the focus on helping the disabled speak their thoughts.

Neuralink, the neurotechnology company founded by Elon Musk, is developing a medical implant that can "let you control a computer or mobile device anywhere you go". But the need to undergo brain surgery to have a device implanted in you is likely to remain a barrier to the use of such technology.

The improvements in accuracy of this new non-invasive technology could make it a gamechanger, however. For the first time, mind-reading technology looks viable by combining two technologies that are readily available – albeit with a hefty price tag. MRI machines currently cost anywhere between US$150,000 and US$1 million (£120,000 and £800,000).

### Legal and ethical ramifications

Data privacy law currently does not consider thought as a form of data. We need new laws that prevent the emergence of thought crime, thought data breaches, and even one day, perhaps, the implantation or manipulation of thought. Going from reading thought to implanting it may take a long time yet, but both require pre-emptive regulation and oversight.

Researchers from the University of Oxford are arguing for a legal right to mental integrity, which they describe as:

A right against significant, non-consensual interference with one's mind.

Others are beginning to defend a new human right to freedom of thought. This would extend beyond traditional definitions of free speech, to protect our ability to ponder, wonder and dream.

A world without regulation could become dystopian very quickly. Imagine a boss, teacher or state official being able to invade your private thoughts – or worse, being able to change and manipulate them.

We are already seeing eye-scanning technologies being deployed in classrooms to track students' eye movements during lessons, to tell if they're paying attention. What happens when mind-reading technologies are next?

Similarly, what happens in the workplace when employees are no longer allowed to think about dinner, or anything outside of work? The level of abusive control of workers could exceed anything previously imagined.

George Orwell wrote convincingly of the dangers of "Thought-crime", where the state makes it a crime to merely think rebellious thoughts about an authoritarian regime. The plot of Nineteen Eighty-Four, however, was based on state officials reading body language, diaries or other external indications of what someone was thinking.

With new mind-reading technology, Orwell's novel would become very short indeed – perhaps even as short as a single sentence:

Winston Smith thought to himself: "Down with Big Brother" – following which, he was arrested and executed.

*(Joshua Krook, University of Southampton, The Conversation)*

## All problems solved

*Dear Coleen*

**I can't get my husband to take me seriously. A few years ago, I agreed to move to another city at the opposite end of the country, as he'd got a promotion with work. In my heart, I didn't want to do it, but I could see the benefits financially and he promised it'd only be for a couple of years. Then covid happened, so we couldn't move back and it was the perfect excuse for him to say stay where we are. It's five years on and he's no closer to committing to a move back home. I understand he enjoys his job and it pays well, but I'm unhappy. I miss my family and friends and I've struggled to fit in here. We don't have kids yet, so it's been harder to find any friends, and I work part-time from home, so I'm not mixing with people much. How can I make him see that I'm serious? I want him to be happy and fulfilled, but I deserve that, too.**

**COLEEN SAYS**

Of course you have a right to be happy and have an equal say in your future, and he's gone back on his word. OK, none of us could have predicted Covid, but now there's the chance to move.

I think you have to talk about a timescale and come up with a plan, so you have something to work towards – when to start looking for jobs, when to put your house on the market and so on.

But make it clear you're not going to change your mind about wanting to move back. You do have to be sensible around jobs and finances, though – it's all very well going back home, but it'll be pretty miserable if you have no money.

Think carefully about how the move will affect your lives on all levels.

In the meantime, maybe you can schedule in more trips home to see loved ones and also get a feel for what it would be like to live back there again permanently.

**—Coleen Nolan, Daily Mirror**

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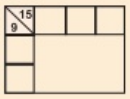
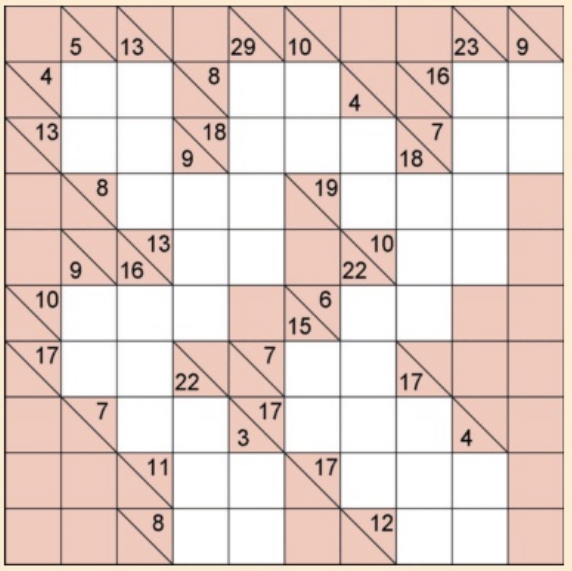
## Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

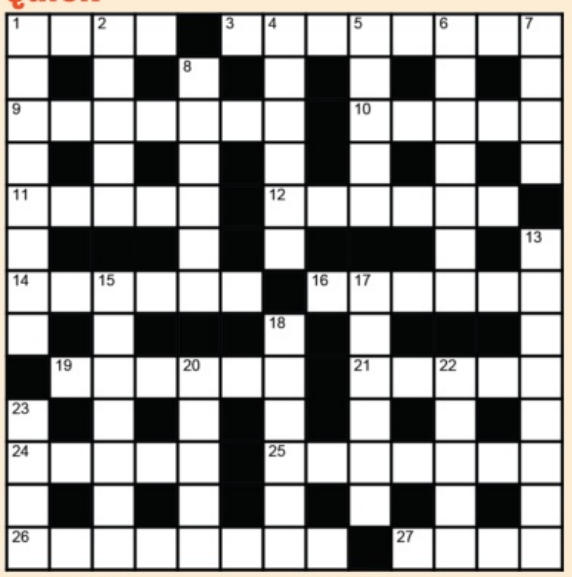


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



## Quick



**ACROSS**

1 Physique (4)
3 Momentous (8)
9 Subtle distinctions (7)
10 2022 French Open Champion (5)
11 They could be mushrooms? (5)
12 Not dispatched (6)
14 Sets of twelve (6)
16 Landed property (6)
19 Twisted metal necklace (6)
21 Light sailing-vessel (5)
24 Dynasty which ruled the area around Bangalore in the 11th century (5)
25 Aircrafts that do not have an engine (7)
26 An optical aid (8)
27 Brought into existence (4)

**DOWN**

1 Genuine or real (4,4)
2 Gutter (5)
4 Racy; suggestive (6)
5 Camping shelters (5)
6 Musical flourish (7)
7 Take it easy (4)
8 A deed (6)
13 Throw overboard (8)
15 Scientific study of animals (7)
17 Thwart (6)
18 Joins or blends gradually (6)
20 Cower (5)
22 Belief system (5)
23 In brief, sergeants and corporals (4)

## Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

**Today's CLUE: Z EQUALS U**

BHVV, XP X SIVVHC JMH BWYUT UZQOHW, BMG CXC GYZ IUABHW JMH RMYUH?

## Linemaro

You're nothing short of my everything

## Mindchow

What is not started today is never finished tomorrow

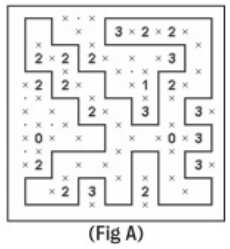
## Joke of the day

What do the starship Enterprise and toilet paper have in common? They both circle uranus and wipe out klingons

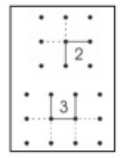
## Loop

### Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

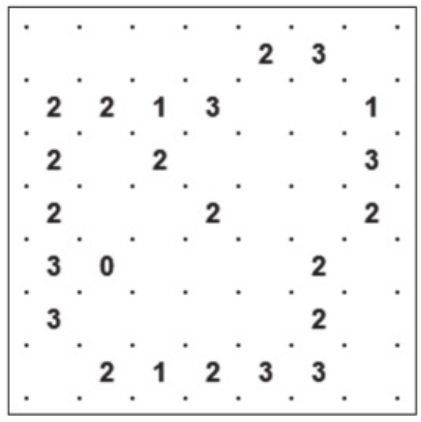


(Fig B) Not Allowed

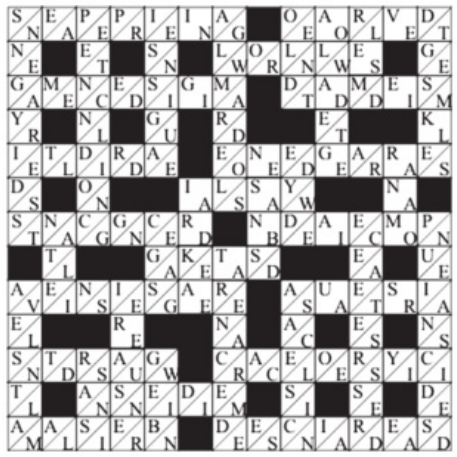
### How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



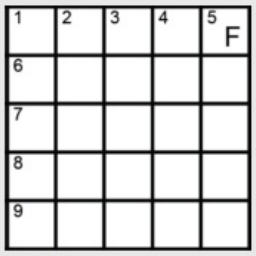
## Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

## Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...




**ACROSS**

1 Off SC; 6 Akola; 7 Sayer; 8 Pater; 9 Dunes

**DOWN**

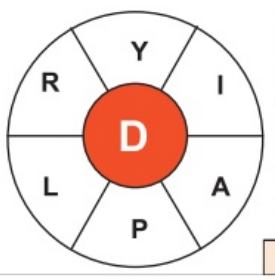
1 Snake; 2 Yo cup; 3 Adore; 4 Feral; 5 Fat SS

## Mensapuzzle

Start at a corner letter and spiral clockwise round the perimeter, finishing at the centre letter, to spell out a nine-letter word. You have to provide the missing letters.

S – E
E – R
D D A

## Bull's eye




How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

13 Average; 15 Good; 17 Outstanding

## SudokuChallenge

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 9 | | | | | | | 7 |
| | | 1 | 6 | | 3 | | | 9 |
| | | | | 4 | | | 2 | |
| | 8 | | 7 | | 2 | | 4 | |
| | | 7 | | | | 2 | | |
| | 1 | | 3 | | 4 | | 6 | |
| | 6 | | | 9 | | | | |
| 2 | | | 8 | | 1 | 5 | | |
| 4 | | | | | | | 1 | 6 |

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

## Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

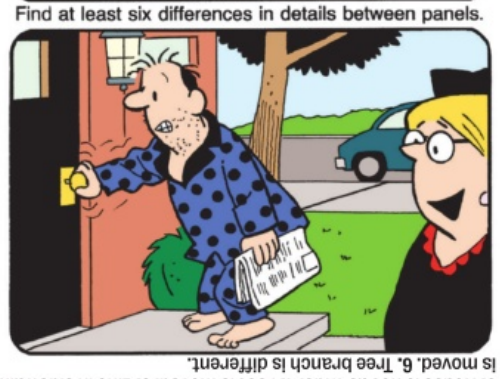
Easy = 13
1 3 4 5

Medium = 12
4 6 7 9

Hard = 1
2 7 8 2

## Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



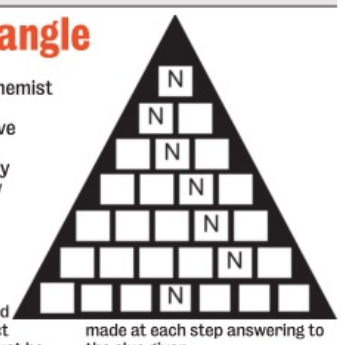
**Differences:** 1. Car tire is moved. 2. Neckline is different. 3. House is not as wide. 4. Foot is moved. 5. Line in sidewalk is moved. 6. Tree branch is different.

## Riddler

Crack the code to find three alkali metals: XWBIAAQCU, AWLQCU, TQBPQCU. Code is sequential i.e. if you think A = G then it will follow that B = H, C = I, and so on

## Alpha triangle

1 One of the poles
2 Sodium for the chemist
3 Moreover
4 Copenhagen native
5 Revise
6 Return to custody
7 Wander aimlessly




Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.


DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

# COMICS

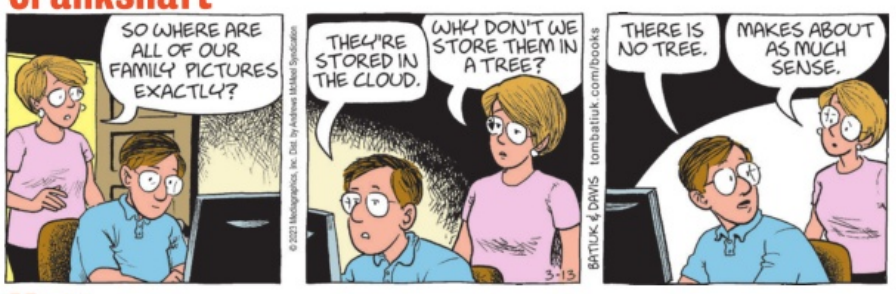
## Redeye by Mel Casson

## Bizarrotrip

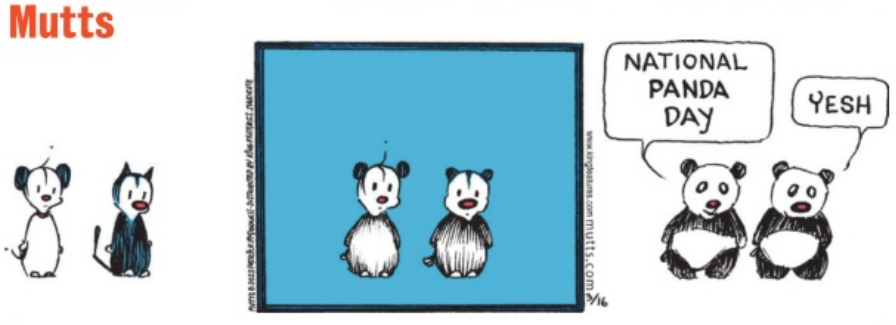
## Diamond Lil

## Hart of the city

## Crankshaft




## Mutts




# WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

**Aries** Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may feel happy and energetic. You may explore and analyse yourself, which may give you confidence. You are likely to be able to face any type of challenges, which may make you fearless and courageous. You are advised to have patience when making financial decisions in business. Lovebirds may enjoy their happy moments.

**Taurus** Apr 21 – May 20
Today is a good day for you. Your enthusiasm may be at its peak, but you need to regulate it. Self-analysis may help you gain confidence, which can increase your prestige in society. You will resolve many problems with the help of your communication skills. Investors are advised to avoid speculation before making investments. You may also plan for higher studies for a good career.

**Gemini** May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may not be able to enjoy your work life as well as your family life. You are advised to avoid arrogance and ego with your spouse, as it may affect your emotional bonding. Problems in partnerships are likely to be resolved. Singles are advised not to hurry when making decisions related to marriage. With patience, you may come out of the messy situation.

**Cancer** Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you are blessed by the moon and Mars. You may be enthusiastic and likely to start some new innovations in business, which may help your business grow in the near future. You may plan some renovation in your house and office with the help of your creativity. Your network may become strong now.

**Leo** Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may be busy with family matters. You will likely hear some good news from your family members. You may also be busy with kids and plan for their academics. Kids' health may likely be under control. You are advised to be polite with the people around you; otherwise, you may face some harsh arguments.

**Virgo** Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may be happier and have internal vitality, which may boost your self-confidence. You are advised to avoid delays in making decisions regarding finance, profession, and academics. Sometimes you may face self-respect issues with your spouse. You are advised to be patient, which may help maintain domestic harmony. Lovebirds may go on short trips.

**Libra** Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today is not a good day for you. You may feel dull and dissatisfied every moment. You may be a victim of conspiracy, so be careful of hidden enemies and opponents. Avoid speaking harshly, as it may lead to litigation. You should avoid making investments in risky assets.

**Scorpio** Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may become happy and enthusiastic. You may start a new partnership, which may help grow your business. Your seniors may appreciate your dedication towards work, and you may likely receive a promotion in your current job. You may also receive incentives or rewards. Job seekers can expect to find a new job. Singles may find their soul mate with the help of relatives.

**Sagittarius** Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may be busy at work, and your focus towards your goal may be tested many times. Your patience may help you achieve your goals on time. Your dedication for work may be tested, and you may receive rewards as a result of your hard work. You may also make investments in fixed assets.

**Capricorn** Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, your destiny may help you achieve success in an easy way. You may visit a spiritual place to seek peace of mind. Spend your time acquiring intellectual or occult knowledge. Students may perform better. Singles are likely to find a good match. Lovebirds may make important decisions regarding marriage.

**Aquarius** Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may feel dull, so it is advised to be careful of opponents and rivals. Avoid arguments with seniors. Postpone investments in fixed assets for a while, as they might become dead investments. Lovebirds are advised to avoid discussions on worthless topics to maintain harmony in their relationships.

**Pisces** Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may enjoy time with your family. Spend some romantic moments with your spouse, which may boost understanding between you. You may also spend money on buying artifacts or household items to renovate your house. Enjoy parties and events. Remember to read documents carefully before making any investments in fixed assets.

## KIDZONE

Akash N, 12 Years, Indiranagar Cambridge School

Dhanush K, 12 Years, Indiranagar Cambridge School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

# SOLUTIONS

**SOLVE IN 1M**
(√[3×12])/⅓
(√[36])/⅓
6/⅓
6×⅓
18

**RIDDLER**
Potassium, sodium, lithium (A becomes I,B becomes J, and so on)

**FAST FIVE**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | C | O | F | F |
| K | O | A | L | A |
| E | Y | R | A | S |
| A | P | E | R | T |
| N | U | D | E | S |

**QUOTE UNCODE**
Well, if I called the wrong number, why did you answer the phone?

**STRIKE OUT**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| N | A | P | P | I | N | G | ■ | O | A | R | E | D | ■ | ■ |
| E | E | S | ■ | L | O | L | L | S | ■ | E | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| A | M | A | N | E | S | I | A | ■ | D | A | M | E | S | ■ |
| S | T | R | A | W | ■ | C | A | L | O | R | I | C | ■ | ■ |
| E | ■ | R | ■ | A | ■ | A | ■ | E | ■ | N | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| V | I | N | E | G | A | R | ■ | S | U | T | R | A | ■ | ■ |
| S | ■ | N | ■ | I | ■ | S | A | Y | ■ | A | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| T | A | G | G | E | D | ■ | B | E | A | C | O | N | ■ | ■ |
| L | ■ | G | E | T | S | ■ | A | ■ | U | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| T | O | R | O | U | E | ■ | Y | A | C | H | T | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| E | ■ | O | ■ | M | ■ | T | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| D | O | Z | E | N | S | ■ | E | S | T | A | T | E | ■ | ■ |
| I | ■ | O | ■ | E | ■ | Z | ■ | J | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| F | U | N | G | I | ■ | U | N | S | E | N | T | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| A | I | ■ | T | O | ■ | T | ■ | E | ■ | L | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| N | U | A | N | C | E | S | ■ | N | A | D | A | L | ■ | ■ |
| O | R | ■ | A | I | ■ | E | A | ■ | O | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| C | H | O | L | A | ■ | G | L | I | D | E | R | S | ■ | ■ |
| N | ■ | L | ■ | U | R | ■ | M | ■ | R | ■ | I

**Right to be here —** Sunny Leone debuted at Cannes as part of Anurag Kashyap's Kennedy which is being shown at the French Film Festival. In an interview, she has said that she has "earned" her right to be there through her work

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# BOUNDARIES, ANYONE?

## Sanya Malhotra shares horrific instances of being harassed once on metro, once by a fan

Just days after actress Aahana Kumra hit headlines for scolding a fan for wrapping his arm around her waist while posing for photos, another actress has come forward to share her story of sexual harassment. Sanya Malhotra spilled the beans to a news portal about a horrifying incident while travelling home from college in Delhi. The actress recalled how a group of boys on the metro 'teased and touched' throughout her journey and even said that nobody came to help her.

"I felt helpless but I knew if I will say anything, anything can happen," she said. She also stated that she was surprised that no one in the metro stepped up to help her and further revealed that the men later followed her off the metro. Sanya said that she was relieved by the crowd at that station that helped her get away from the men and rush to the washroom where she called her father and waited for him to pick her up.

Even after becoming an actress, Malhotra said that she faced such incidents. She recalled a time when a fan put his hand on her butt while posing with her for a photo. She added that even though the photographers saw that she was uncomfortable, "they didn't help me" she said. On the work front, Sanya will be seen opposite Shah Rukh in 'Jawan' and will also be seen opposite Vicky Kaushal in the biopic 'Sam Bahadur'. — **ETimes**

## Next on Joaquin's plate

Hollywood star Joaquin Phoenix is taking it up another notch after Ari Aster's 'Beau Is Afraid', teaming up with Todd Haynes for an NC-17-rated gay romance film.

Haynes spoke to IndieWire at the Cannes Film Festival following the Saturday premiere of his romantic drama 'May December', starring Natalie Portman and Julianne Moore. In the interview, Haynes teased an upcoming project he co-developed with Phoenix, reports 'Variety'.

"The next film is a feature that's an original script that I developed with Joaquin Phoenix based on some thoughts and ideas he brought to me," Haynes told IndieWire. "We basically wrote with him as a story writer. Me and Jon Raymond and Joaquin share the story credit. And we hope to be shooting it beginning early next year. It's a gay love story set in 1930s L.A."

Haynes said, "Joaquin was pushing me further and going, 'No, let's go further.' This will be an NC-17 film." —**IANS**

## Same pinch

Urvashi Rautela has been making heads turn on the red carpet at Cannes Film Festival 2023 with her glamorous looks. On the seventh day of the prestigious event, the actress opted for a green, floor-length dress covered in long feathers.

Dressed in a green, floor-length dress covered in long feathers across its bodice, and a sheer, crystal-covered lining sat underneath. Along with the attire, Urvashi donned a matching headgear.

As soon her pictures made their way on to social media, the netizens were quick to notice that she was wearing a dress worn by actress Victoria Bonya that she wore during the opening ceremony on day one.

While some lauded the actress' outfit, others trolled her for copying the attire. — **ETimes**

## SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

### Saga of violence

There is no dearth of Kannada movies based on violence and rowdies. Add one more to the list with Star that is all set to go on floors. Star's muhurat function was held at Kempegowda Playground at Srinivasanagar. Sharath, the son of a stuntman, makes debut as a hero in Sandalwood with this film. Apart from playing the lead, Sharath is bankrolling this movie.

"My father Prakash is my inspiration for me to act. I participated in Pyate Mandhi Kadige Bandru, a reality show and won the first prize. I have experience in theater. Star is based on rowdies and violence. The director has a very good plan for this movie. I am sure that audiences will come out of the theater in tears after watching this movie," said Sharath.

Anu and Vijayasurya, a couple, are directing this movie. "I began my career as a light boy 16 years ago. I spent most of the time writing scripts. Now, I am debuting as a director. We have planned to shoot this movie in and around Bengaluru," said Vijayasurya.

Rajata Raksha is paired opposite Sharath.

### On OTT

Most web series in other languages are being dubbed in Kannada. However, the web series Love You Abhi is an original web series in Kannada. Love You Abhi has Vikram Ravichandran and Aditi Prabhudeva in the lead while Ravishankar plays a police officer. It is directed by Kala Velayudhan.

The movie is about Shiva (Vikram Ravichandran), an industrialist, and Abhi (Aditi Prabhudeva), a widowed woman. Abhi's husband died in a road accident. Shiva marries Abhi and looks after her son. Abhi begins to reciprocate to Shiva's love but the mystery of her husband's death surfaces. Police Inspector Shiradi Shekhar (Ravishankar) begins investigation into it. Shiva tries to protect Abhi from Shiradi.

Vikran Ravichandran has acted well. Aditi too has done a good job. Ravishankar, known for playing villains in Kannada movies, is convincing as a police officer. Rachita Mahalakshmi, Srinath, Abmika, Sundar Raj, Vinaya Prasad, Kempegowda have provided good support. Director Kali Velayudham deserves a pat on the back.